

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 111

Introduced by Assembly Member Cardoza

August 30, 2001

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 111—Relative to the California Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 111, as introduced, Cardoza. California Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway.

This measure would dedicate a specified portion of State Highway 99 to the memory of California Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., and would specify that this portion of State Highway 99 shall be known as the “CHP Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway.” The measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing that special designation, and to erect appropriate plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, State Traffic Officer James John Schumacher, Jr.,
2 of the California Highway Patrol, was killed while in the line of
3 duty, early on the morning of June 13, 1981, on Highway 99
4 approximately four miles south of Merced; and

5 WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher had just finished writing a
6 speeding ticket and was standing approximately four feet off the
7 highway while obtaining the ticketed driver's signature and
8 warning the ticketed driver to be careful pulling out onto the

1 highway, when he was struck by another car driving at a high rate
2 of speed, who's driver had fallen asleep at the wheel; and

3 WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher died instantly from massive
4 injuries to his head and body; and

5 WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher was a graduate of Luther
6 Burbank High School in Sacramento, before attending Golden
7 West College and then serving in the United States Army, where
8 he achieved the rank of Sergeant; and

9 WHEREAS, Office Schumacher graduated from the Academy
10 and was appointed to the California Highway Patrol on May 19,
11 1969; and

12 WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher was an admired and respected
13 12-year veteran of the California Highway Patrol, having served
14 in the South Los Angeles, Westminster, and Merced areas; and

15 WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher had many close friends in the
16 California Highway Patrol, who were shocked and saddened by
17 the loss of their fellow officer, a tragedy made worse by the theft
18 of Officer Schumacher's badge from the scene of the accident by
19 a bystander - it being the tradition of the California Highway Patrol
20 since its inception, to memorialize a fallen officer by presenting his
21 or her badge to the officer's family; and

22 WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher was only 33 years of age at
23 the time of his death and was survived by his wife, Roberta, and
24 their sons, James, then aged 9, and Andrew, then aged 7, his
25 parents, three sisters and two brothers, one of whom was a fellow
26 officer in the California Highway Patrol; and

27 WHEREAS, Officer Schumacher died only five miles north
28 from where California Highway Patrol Officer Al Johnson died,
29 when he was struck by a drunk driver while writing out a ticket,
30 in August of 1972; and

31 WHEREAS, This tragic accident continues to live in the
32 memory of the law enforcement community, local residents of
33 Merced County, and citizens throughout the state; and

34 WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the sacrifice of this young
35 man, killed in the line of duty, be remembered on a highway
36 memorializing his dedication to public service; and

37 WHEREAS, It would be a fitting tribute to Officer Schumacher
38 to name the portion of State Highway Route 99, between Athlone
39 Road and Worden Avenue, as the "CHP Officer James J.
40 Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway"; and



1 WHEREAS, This memorial highway will continue to remind us
2 of the sacrifices California Highway Patrol and other peace
3 officers make on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
5 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby dedicates that
6 portion of State Highway Route 99, between Athlone Road and
7 Worden Avenue, in Merced County, to the memory of California
8 Highway Patrol Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr.; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That State Highway Route 99, between Athlone Road
10 and Worden Avenue, in Merced County, be officially dedicated the
11 “CHP Officer James J. Schumacher, Jr., Memorial Highway”;
12 and be it further

13 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested to
14 determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent
15 with the signing requirements for the state highway system,
16 showing this special designation, and to erect those plaques and
17 markers; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
20 author for appropriate distribution.

